

TOWN OF PATAGONIA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
7:00 P.M. - JULY 22, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER--Mayor Wood called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
2. ROLL CALL/THIS MEETING WILL HAVE PARTIAL REMOTE PARTICIPATION WITH LIMITED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING. Mayor Wood present, Vice-Mayor Stabile present, Council Members Reibslager and Finch present
ABSENT--Council Member Murrietta
STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Robinson, Marshal Patterson
PUBLIC PRESENT--Robert Gay, Michele Gissen, Via Zoom Meeting--Angela Watt, Melanie Lawson, Tomas Goode, Brent Musselwhite, Jenny Fiore, Adam Hawkins, Denise Bowdon, Carolyn Shafer, Joe Haas, Pat Risner, Howard Buchanan, Robert Brandt, David Budd, Philip Brister, Carl Canada, Victor Cook, Matthew Jewell, Sarah Rickman, Nancy Heiser, Greg Lucero, Ron Pulliam
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE--Mayor Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance
4. CORRECTION AND OR APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM:
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JULY 8, 2020 @ 7:00 P.M. WITH PARTIAL PARTICIPATION WITH LIMITED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING.
MOTION: Mayor Wood moved to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting July 8, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.
SECOND: Council Member Reibslager
VOTE: The motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:
AYES: Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile, Council Members Reibslager & Finch
NAYS: None
ABSTAINERS: None
ABSENT: Council Member Murrietta
5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC A. R. S. §38-431-01(H): AT THIS TIME, ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC IS ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE TOWN COMMITTEE, SUBJECT TO REASONABLE TIME AND MANNER RESTRICTIONS. THE PUBLIC WILL ONLY BE RECOGNIZED TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS LISTED FOR PUBLIC INPUT PURSUANT TO TOWN CODE SECTION 2-5-6. PURSUANT TO THE ARIZONA OPEN MEETING LAW, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CALL TO THE PUBLIC, INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL MAY RESPOND TO CRITICISM MADE BY THOSE WHO HAVE ADDRESSED THE COUNCIL, MAY ASK STAFF TO REVIEW THE MATTER, OR MAY ASK THE MATTER BE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA. HOWEVER, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BODY SHALL NOT DISCUSS OR TAKE LEGAL ACTION ON MATTERS RAISED DURING AN OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS THE MATTERS ARE PROPERLY NOTICED FOR DISCUSSION AND LEGAL ACTION.

OLD BUSINESS

6. MAYOR'S REPORT ON CURRENT EVENTS. AT THIS TIME THE MAYOR MAY WISH TO CALL UPON THE COUNCIL OR STAFF FOR CURRENT EVENTS OR MONTHLY REPORTS.

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Mayor Wood had nothing to report.

7. STAFF REPORTS ON ONGOING ACTIVITIES WITH POSSIBLE DIRECTION BY COUNCIL:
- A. FINANCIAL REPORT in Books
 - B. POLICE REPORT--Marshal Patterson said he would forward his report to the Town Manager. Robert Gay asked about traffic flow for the upcoming mobile COVID test site at the High School. Marshal Patterson said the Entrance would be off of First Avenue and the Exit would be on to SR 82.
 - C. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MATTERS--P & D Chairman David Budd reported that their meetings were going all zoom and they would be addressing the Town Plan in their August 4, 2020 Meeting. They have not been meeting recently.
 - D. PATAGONIA FIRE and RESCUE MONTHLY REPORT--ATTACHED

NEW BUSINESS

8. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY WILDLIFE CORRIDORS LLC AND BORDERLANDS RESTORATION NETWORK 501-C-3 TO COOPERATE WITH THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA TO PROTECT APPROXIMATELY 1,500 ACRES OF THE SONOITA CREEK WILDLIFE CORRIDOR (SCWC). THE PURPOSE OF THE REQUEST IS FOR THE TOWN TO HELP DEVELOP A DRAFT CONSERVATION EASEMENT TO BE BROUGHT TO THE COUNCIL FOR REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION BY AUGUST 30, 2020. PRESENTATION BY RON PULLIAM ATTACHED
- MOTION:** Vice-Mayor Stabile moved to APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR THE TOWN TO HELP DEVELOP A DRAFT CONSERVATION EASEMENT TO BE BROUGHT TO THE COUNCIL FOR REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION BY AUGUST 30, 2020.

SECOND: Mayor Wood

VOTE: The motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:

AYES: Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile, Council Members Reibslager & Finch

NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: Council Member Murrietta

9. SOUTH32 WILL PRESENT AN UPDATE ON STATE PERMITS AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEEDED TO PROGRESS EXPLORATION AT HERMOSA. A statement and question was asked by Carolyn Shafer. The draft is attached. Mayor Wood asked about water quality and quantity and the effect it might have on our environment. South32 rep said there would be little to no impact. Vice-Mayor Stabile asked about removal of underground water and what effect it would have on Flora and

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Fauna. Again the answer was little to no effect. South32 Rep Sarah Richman stated the quality of water being released into Harshaw Creek will be better than drinking water. Ron Pulliam calculated the amount of water being pumped out a large quantity, and could affect the aquafer level. The answer was little to no effect. The presentation is attached.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AN INCREASE OF \$2000.00 ANNUALLY IN BASE PAY FOR TOWN MANAGER RON ROBINSON AFTER PERFORMANCE REVIEW.
MOTION: Council Member Finch moved to APPROVE AN INCREASE OF \$2000.00 ANNUALLY IN BASE PAY FOR TOWN MANAGER RON ROBINSON AFTER PERFORMANCE REVIEW.
SECOND: Vice-Mayor Stabile
VOTE: The motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:
AYES: Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile, Council Members Reibslager & Finch
NAYS: None
ABSTAINERS: None
ABSENT: Council Member Murrietta
11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO NAME THE ALLEY BETWEEN PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE ON THE SOUTH AND 3 R AVENUE ON THE NORTH WITH FIRST AVENUE ON THE WEST AND WALNUT AVENUE ON THE EAST, RAVEN ALLEY. MAPS ATTACHED
MAYOR WOOD TABLED ITEM #11, UNTIL FURTHER INFORMATION COULD BE GATHERED ON OWNERSHIP OF A PORTION OF THE ALLEY.
12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF THE TUCSON AUDUBON SOCIETY FOR TWO GRANTS. THE FIRST GRANT IS FOR A HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION GRANT FROM THE STATE FORESTRY SERVICE WHICH WOULD FOCUS ON JOHNSON GRASS REMOVAL. THE SECOND IS FROM THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION WHICH WOULD FOCUS ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF FLOW AND WATER QUALITY FOR GILA TOPMINNOW IN SONOITA CREEK.
MOTION: Council Member Finch moved to SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF THE TUCSON AUDUBON SOCIETY FOR TWO GRANTS. THE FIRST GRANT IS FOR A HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION GRANT FROM THE STATE FORESTRY SERVICE WHICH WOULD FOCUS ON JOHNSON GRASS REMOVAL. THE SECOND IS FROM THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION WHICH WOULD FOCUS ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF FLOW AND WATER QUALITY FOR GILA TOPMINNOW IN SONOITA CREEK.
SECOND: Council Member Reibslager
VOTE: The motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:
AYES: Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile, Council Members Reibslager & Finch

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NAYS: None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: Council Member Murrietta

13. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE.**
MOTION: Council Member Reibslager moved to approve payment of accounts payable
SECOND: Council Member Finch
VOTE: The motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:
AYES: Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile, Council Members Reibslager & Finch
NAYS: None
ABSTAINERS: None
ABSENT: Council Member Murrietta
14. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**
AT THIS TIME THE COUNCIL MAY BRING FORTH TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS, AND IF PREVIOUSLY REJECTED BY THE MAYOR, THE COUNCIL MAY VOTE ON WHETHER TO PLACE THOSE ITEMS ON A FUTURE AGENDA PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-5-5 OF THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA, ARIZONA CODE. THE COUNCIL MAY NOT DISCUSS, DELIBERATE OR TAKE ANY ACTION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TOPICS OTHER THAN TO VOTE TO INCLUDE THEM ON A FUTURE AGENDA. A. R. S. §38-431.02(H).
MOTION: Mayor Wood moved to bring forward Item 11 on the next agenda after further ownership study
SECOND: Council Member Finch
VOTE: The motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:
AYES: Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile, Council Members Reibslager & Finch
NAYS: None
ABSTAINERS: None
ABSENT: Council Member Murrietta
15. **ADJOURN**
MOTION: Mayor Wood moved to adjourn
SECOND: Vice-Mayor Stabile
VOTE: The motion passed by a 4-0 vote, with Council Members voting as follows:
AYES: Mayor Wood, Vice-Mayor Stabile, Council Members Reibslager & Finch
NAYS: None
ABSTAINERS: None
ABSENT: Council Member Murrietta

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The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

I hereby confirm the foregoing minutes are a true and accurate copy of the minutes of a Regular Council Meeting held July 8, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. I further certify that the meeting was duly called, held, and that a quorum was present.

Dated _____ Day of _____, 2020

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk/Manager

SENIOR CENTER MANAGEMENT REPORT

First Quarter 2020	
Users to date	2,245
Utilities	\$973.59
Internet	\$676.16
Janitorial Services	\$260.85
Total Expenses	\$1,910.60

Second Quarter 2020	
Users to date	2,512
Utilities	\$1,043.14
Internet	\$244.80
Janitorial Services	\$243.56
Total Expenses	\$1,531.50

Third Quarter 2020	
Users to date	
Utilities	
Internet	
Janitorial Services	
Total Expenses	

Fourth Quarter 2020	
Users to date	
Utilities	
Internet	
Janitorial Services	
Total Expenses	

Manager's Office

From: charles rayner kelly <charlesraynerkelly@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 03, 2020 10:39 AM
To: Manager's Office
Subject: Patagonia Senior Center Quarterly Report
Attachments: Senior Center Quarterly Management Report.docx

Hello Ron,
Here are the two most recent quarterly reports and attached are expenses.
We hope to begin food distribution once more on July 14th.
Chuck

January - March, 2020

Replaced the evaporator cooler system.
Awarded a grant to help pay dental expenses for seniors.
Held first Guest Chef dinner/fundraiser.
Suspended indoor dining facilities on March 19th due to the coronavirus epidemic.
All meals are henceforth distributed from the front door.

April - June, 2020

Installed an electric generator to be used community-wide in case of black-outs.
Replaced all the lighting in the Senior Center with LED lights.
Guest Chef program suspended due to virus concerns.
Meal distribution program suspended on June 17th due to cook's health issues.

Wildlife Corridors, LLC

*P. O. Box 1139
Patagonia, Arizona*

June 8, 2020

To: Patagonia Town Council

From: Wildlife Corridors LLC and Borderlands Restoration Network 501c3

Re: Collaborative Project Proposal, Sonoita Creek Wildlife Corridor Conservation Easement

To Whom It May Concern,

Wildlife Corridors LLC and Borderlands Restoration Network 501c3 propose to expand mutually beneficial collaboration with the Town of Patagonia and other public and private partners in order to protect a vital wildlife corridor within the Town's watershed.

Overview and Context

The Sonoita Creek Wildlife Corridor is a 10-mile long, 2-mile wide swath of rich, highly diverse grassland and riparian habitat immediately upstream of the Town. Subsequent to private attempts to subdivide and develop a large portion of this landscape, in 2008 Northern Arizona University and Arizona Game and Fish Department researchers identified the corridor as one of the most important in the southwestern U.S., linking several mountain ranges and habitat types and two Forest Service Districts.

In 1990 this landscape between Patagonia and Sonoita had just two large ranches, but has since been fragmented by residential subdivision and is now platted for over 300 houses. That attempt at division failed during the 2008-2009 economic recession, leaving the habitat relatively unchanged and idle, but also vulnerable as the only open space remaining without development between the two towns.

In 2013, Wildlife Corridors purchased 173 of the 189 lots in the former Three Canyons development west of Highway 82. We developed detailed habitat management and HOA plans for minimal residential development in the southern portion of the property only, protecting over 1,000 acres in the Corridor.

In addition to many habitat restoration and enhancement projects funded by agency and private partners for collaborative work at the Corridor, we recently received a Forest Legacy Award from the U.S. Forest Service. This effort will help pay off the property's mortgage, and represents a major milestone that placed the region, the Corridor, and the partners protecting it squarely on the national map of conservation values. Wildlife Corridors has also purchased

bike trails developed and maintained through partnerships complement ongoing workshops, courses and other outreach efforts to make the Corridor a truly participatory endeavor.

Proposed Partnership and Next Steps

- ~1500 acres will be protected as a wildlife preserve
- Wildlife Corridors LLC will donate development rights and pay expenses to purchase the land and establish a fund to manage the land, with contributions from Forest Legacy and other entities
- Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management is assisting with creation of a Habitat Management Plan for multiple interests and to leverage future conservation and restoration funding for local residents to learn and contribute
- Arizona Game and Fish Dept is providing funds for wildlife viewing trails and public access
- Borderland Restoration will manage the land in accordance with the provisions of the easement and Management Plan, reporting to the Town and general public regularly

We request that the Town of Patagonia work with us to draft the terms of a responsive and responsible conservation easement that highlights and protects shared values, collaboratively and in perpetuity. We and our partners have extensive experience and useful examples of such easements that can be used to forge a new document, the creation of which can be led by Wildlife Corridors in order to avoid burdening the Town, and at the Town's discretion.

To this end, we request that the Town prepare a letter stating that it is working the wildlife Corridors LLC and borderlands Restoration Network to consider the possibility of the Town holding the conservation easement on private lands in the Corridor.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with the Town of Patagonia and other interests for shared benefits that exemplify the spirit of progressive collaborative conservation.

Sincerely,



Ron Pulliam, on behalf of
Wildlife Corridors LLC and
Borderlands Restoration Network 501c3

Forest Legacy Project

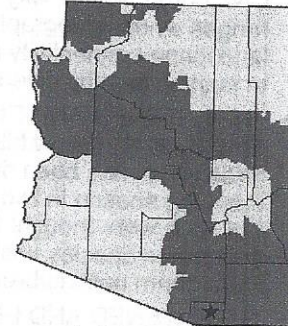
The Sonoita Creek Wildlife Corridor

Patagonia, Arizona



FUNDING HISTORY

FY 2021 Forest Legacy Program Funding	\$1,090,000
FY 2021 Non-Federal Cost Share	\$410,000
FY 2021 Project Costs	\$1,500,000
FY 2021 Project Acres	324
Forest Legacy Funding To Date	\$0
Total Project Costs	\$2,850,000
Total Project Acres	684



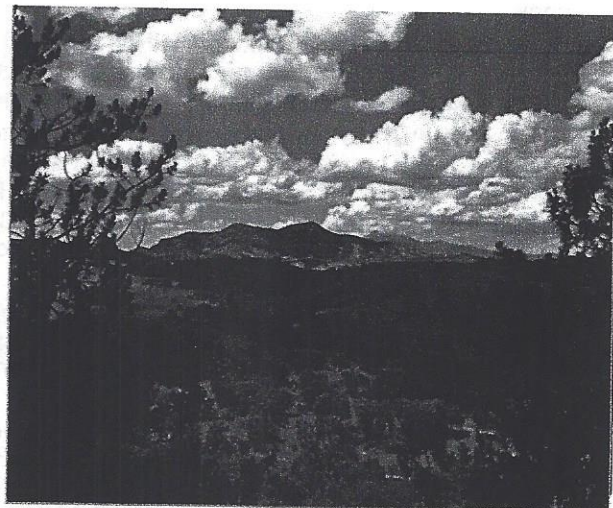
★ Project Location
■ Forest Legacy Areas

Tract Name	Size (ac)	Tract Cost	FLP Funding	Non-Fed Cost Share	Status
Phase 1 - Community Forest	115	\$830,000	\$600,000	\$230,000	In Review 2021
Phase 1 - Lazy RR	144	\$350,000	\$260,000	\$90,000	In Review 2021
Phase 1 - The Village	65	\$320,000	\$230,000	\$90,000	In Review 2021
Phase 2 - Sonoita Springs	360	\$1,350,000	\$1,000,000	\$350,000	In Review 2022

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Sonoita Creek Wildlife Corridor (SCWC) was identified by AZ Game and Fish Department as a vital corridor for the movement of endangered jaguar and other at-risk wildlife between northern Mexico and the Arizona Sky Islands (AZGFD 2006). The 2-mi wide x 10-mi long SCWC connects two Coronado National Forest districts and crosses 4 square miles of private land, most of which had been platted for residential development by 2010. In 2013, local conservation partners purchased 1,200 acres to protect it from imminent development and have since worked with Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN) to permanently protect over 800 acres under a conservation easement. The project area lies within the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape, allowing private land conservation and wildlife habitat improvement to assist our nation's military meet shared national goals.

Funding from the first phase of this proposal will be used to add an additional 324 acres to this core protected area. An adjacent property, being held as a potential mine mitigation site, currently has no permanent protections. The second phase of this project will purchase 360 acres, connecting 1500 ac of a critical migratory linkage over 400,000 acres of USFS lands and Wilderness Areas.

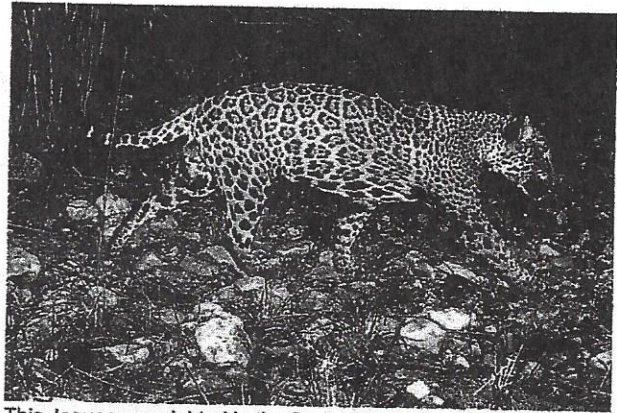


Stringer of Mesquite and Oak woodlands spanning the SCWC to the Santa Rita Mtns. (Photo by R. Pulliam-Wildlife Corridors LLC)

PROJECT FEATURES

Important

- **UNIQUE COMMUNITIES:** The Coronado National Forest (CNF) is the most biologically diverse National Forest in the western U.S. CNF comprises 12 Sky Island mountain ranges whose geographic separation requires landscape connectivity and migration corridors to sustain healthy diverse wildlife populations.
- **THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES:** W Yellow billed cuckoo, federally threatened, has been documented during the breeding season in two canyons on Phase 1. Cuckoos were thought to be riparian dependent species until recent inventories found them nesting/breeding in oak canyons in southeastern AZ.
- **THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT:** Arizona has the only documented, recently occupied habitat for jaguars in the U.S. The USFWS designated 764,207 acres of critical habitat in six non-contiguous units, each of which is a unique southwestern community, a Sky Island mountain range.
- Phase 1 project tracts form a portion of the larger corridor that link habitat in the Santa Rita, Huachuca, and Patagonia Mountains. This allows unrestricted wildlife movement between the three disconnected Sky Islands of federally-designated jaguar critical habitat, see map on page 4.
- Jaguar and ocelot are both endangered species which have been documented in the Santa Rita Mountains as recently as 2016. Based on topography, housing density, and professional wildlife biologists, the most likely land route for these animals is through the project area.
- Phase 1 tracts provide key habitat for 9 federally listed species that were documented in the SCWC area: Jaguar, Gila topminnow, Sonoran tiger salamander, Canelo Hills ladytresses, Huachuca water umber, Yellow-billed cuckoo, Chiricahua leopard frog, N Mexican Garter snake, and Huachuca spring snail.
- Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN) received a Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program grant to establish over 600 agaves in the project area, providing a future nectar source to the recently de-listed lesser long-nosed bat.
- **AQUATIC HABITAT:** Restoration of 1 mi of perennial stream and the cottonwood riparian community at Lazy RR will provide additional aquatic/riparian habitat for all the federally listed species shown above. Restoration of stock tanks and ponds will provide aquatic habitat and wildlife water on SCWC.
- Phase 1 provides riparian connectivity between Casa Blanca and Sonoita Creeks for aquatic and riparian species: 300 birds, 130 butterflies, and some of the largest, tallest, and oldest Fremont cottonwood trees in the country.
- **NON-TIMBER ECONOMIC BENEFITS:** Watchable Wildlife estimates \$21M is added to the local economy from birding along Sonoita Creek—designated as a globally Important Bird Area. SCWC expands public wildlife viewing opportunities in an area already well-known for its birdwatching and outdoor activities.
- Education, outreach and restoration demonstrated at SCWC resulted in a \$200K USFWS grant to BRN to conduct similar restoration work in Sonora, MX. Practitioners worked closely to enhance habitat for threatened migratory birds and extend ecological connectivity between Mexico and the US.
- SCWC is an important site for native seed collection. Under strict guidelines, seeds are provided as a renewable ecosystem service to help support development of a local restoration economy. Seeds collected are being supplied to the national seed bank for emergency restoration due to climate change.
- Seeds collected on Phase 1 are supplied to the national seed bank for future emergencies as a direct result of climate change. Pollinator islands composed of milkweed and nectar spp are being planted at SCWC to enhance habitat for Candidate species such as Monarch butterflies and native bees.

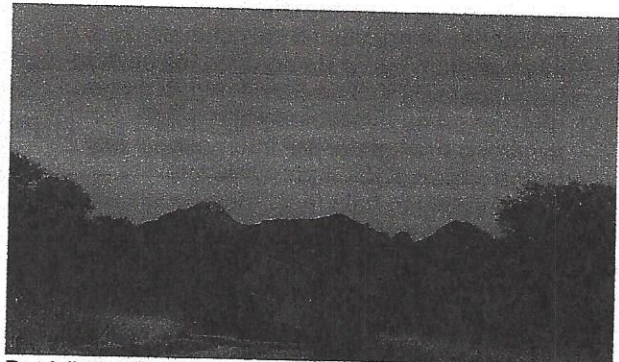


This Jaguar was sighted in the Santa Rita Mtns, only accessible through SCWC. (Photo by Arizona Game and Fish Department 2016(AG))

- **PUBLIC ACCESS:** A portion of the 800-mile Arizona National Scenic Trail will be re-routed across the project area, which will include a new trailhead on a Phase 1 parcel to provide improved access. A current two-mile Watchable Wildlife hiking trail (see map) was constructed with AZGFD funding.
- Full public access on the 115 ac Community Forest tract will support the popular activities hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, birdwatching, conservation efforts, open space vistas, and local community events. The property also offers non-motorized recreational access to adjacent CNF lands.
- Volunteers have contributed over 5,000 hours, built more than 400 erosion-control structures, monitored wildlife cameras, built two miles of watchable wildlife trails, and built and maintain wildlife watering stations. Since 2013 over \$122,500 of conservation work has been donated to SCWC.
- **WATER SUPPLY:** A 2016 study found the average depth to ground water in the area dropped from 50' to 150' since 1980. The residential development planned would have used as much water as the entire Town of Patagonia (pop. 900). The proposed project will use less than 25% of this as a wildlife corridor
- **WATERSHED PROTECTION:** Hundreds of small rock erosion control structures are being built across the project area to increase infiltration, aquifer recharge, Nogales-Sonoita-Patagonia's water supply, and enhance resiliency to climate change.
- A 2016 USGS study compared runoff from a non-treated watershed to one treated with small rock structures. The treated channel maintains moisture that increases and extends baseflow. The treated watershed can sustain 28% more flow than untreated, we are demonstrating a positive water budget.
- **HISTORICAL/ CULTURAL:** There is evidence of 10,000+ years of pre-historic and European settlement in SCWC. The AZ State Museum archeologist identified an important agave roasting pit and other sites on phase 1 and conservation and protection procedures will be in the CE after tribal consultation.

Threatened

- **ABILITY TO DEVELOP** A 1245-acre subdivision (East of highway 82) was platted in 2006 for a 189-house residential subdivision. Prior to current ownership in 2013, utilities were placed on the southern portion and 16 lots were sold. Phase 1 includes 180 acres of this original subdivision.
- The presence of roads and utilities on the 115-acre Community Forest parcel makes it a 'turn-key' proposition attractive to home developers. The 65-acre Village parcel was platted for dense development and includes easy access to HWY 82, utilities, low grade buildable terrain, and striking views.
- **ADJACENT LAND USE:** Proximity to Tucson, less than a one-hour drive, creates an increasing threat for conversion into homes. The Tucson metroplex is the 33rd largest city in the U.S. and had a population of 1,034,201 in 2018, with many more visitors in the winter.
- Santa Cruz County census data shows a 54% increase in residential development from 2000-2010. The County borders Mexico and is a gateway to North America's most important inland port of entry, Nogales, Sonora. More than 2.5M vehicles and 3.5M pedestrians move cross this international border yearly.
- The border wall has blocked many traditional migration routes crossing the nearby border with Mexico. Wildlife movement through the Patagonia and Huachuca Mountains (immediately south of SCWC) has not been restricted, increasing the importance of our conservation work which has recently intensified.
- Phase 2, Sonoita Springs protects 360 upland acres east of highway 82. The adjacent mitigation property will only be conserved if the mine is permitted. The floodplain in the SW corner is undevelopable, allowing unimpeded wildlife movement across the phase 1 and 2 uplands between the sky islands.

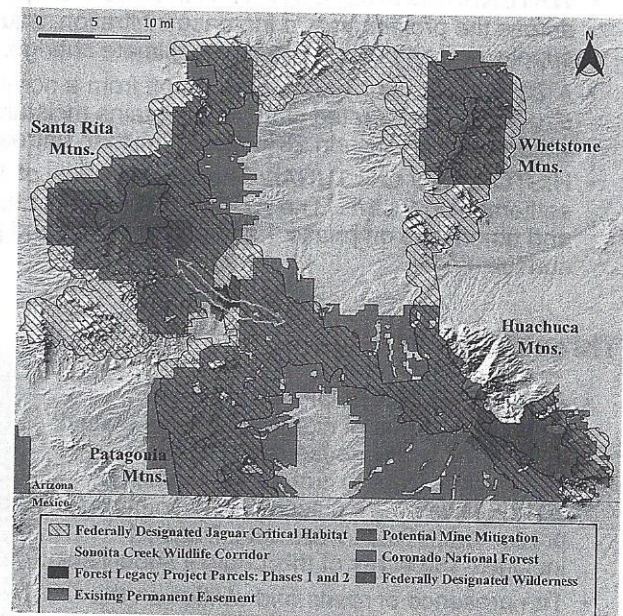


Road divides Community tract from a 4.1 ac lot on right for sale at \$22,000/ac. (Photo by Carol Ford)

- **LANDOWNER CIRCUMSTANCE:** Development pressures and financial constraints threaten the project area. Despite good intentions to protect and connect parcels, the landowner must make mortgage payments and could be forced to sell up to 76 lots for development.
- As of October 2019, lot sales and development in the vicinity of the project area is steadily increasing. Six lots adjacent to Sonoita Creek Wildlife Corridor Phase 1 have sold in the past 10 months, and many offers were received by the current owners.
- Over 800 acres of the project area are under protection from an CE held by The Sonoran Institute, due to fragmented parcels in the area the remainder of the SCWC is still vulnerable. Local conservation partners are in discussion with AZGF Department about consolidating and AZGF holding the whole CE.
- Open space connecting the Sky Islands is under threat from the expansion of vineyards and nut tree plantings. Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties experienced a 10-fold increase in vineyards from 1980's to present, and many are actively buying open space lands for pecan and pistachio farms.

Strategic

- **INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIES:** The Good Neighbor Environmental Board shares strategies and recommendations for addressing U.S.-Mexico border environmental issues. The 16th Annual GNEB Report (2014) for the White House and Congress highlighted restoration and wildlife corridor protection by BRN, SCWC and its partners' work as an example of neighbors cooperating across international borders.
- Bat Conservation International is planting thousands of agaves as part of their International Agave Restoration Initiative to help meet USFWS de-listing requirements and assure an available forage supply for bats migrating throughout the international Sky Island region. BRN and SCWC are collaborating to help meet these goals on Phase 1 lands and down through Mexico.
- **NATIONAL STRATEGIES:** The Secretaries of USDA, DOI, and DOD designated Fort Huachuca as one of six Sentinel Landscapes (FHSL) in the US. Their goals are to encourage compatible land uses that reduce development and habitat fragmentation by focusing on restoration and conservation of open space. SCWC is within the FHSL and aligns with the regional landscape priorities for this national initiative.
- REPI is a key program for combating encroachment that can limit or restrict military training, testing, and operations. Open space conservation is a primary goal of the Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape. SCWC is furthering this by reducing fragmentation of open spaces near the military installation. This prevents incompatible development that would inhibit military testing and training activities.
- Protection of the SCWC addresses goals of the Arizona Forest Legacy Program: Assessment of Need for both the Sky Islands and Santa Cruz County; the CNF Forest Plan (2018): decreasing fragmentation and supporting wildlife movement and connectivity between Forest Service districts; The USFWS Recovery Plans for Jaguar (Binational draft), lesser longed-nosed bat, and Western Yellow billed cuckoo.
- The CNF Forest Plan identified five priority needs for change: Ecosystem Restoration and Resiliency, Visitor Experience, Access to National Forest System Lands, Preservation of Open Space, and Communities/Collaboration/Partnerships. The current project and partnership activities between SCWC and CNF contributes to meeting all of these priorities.
- The CNF Forest Plan calls for watersheds that are, or are moving toward, functioning properly. SCWC is used as a demonstration of shared stewardship where we train USFS and other agency



USFWS critical habitat and movement corridors for jaguar in southern Arizona (Photo by Randall Moore)

personnel in watershed restoration techniques. Local conservation partners have collaborated with CNF to implement watershed and aquatic restoration projects to help meet conservation and job creation objectives.

- The Status of Water Quality in Arizona 305(b) Report and 303(d) Listing shows many streams as impaired due to high E coli readings. Local partners are working together to restore SCWC and adjacent CNF lands, and to conduct research in cooperation with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to determine if this restoration can reduce E. coli delivery to streams and meet EPA standards.
- LOCAL CONSERVATION STRATEGIES: Local conservation partners are working to ensure the long term management of this land. After paying off the mortgage, current landowners will donate up to 80% of the net proceeds to establish an endowment fund for the perpetual management and restoration of the project area.
- Volunteers from Patagonia, Sonoita, and the surrounding region are involved in the labor and success of this project. Working together fosters a sense of connection to the land, community involvement, and stewardship. Hands on restoration experiences offered at SCWC helps train local residents, high school interns and international students to be our next generation of restoration professionals.

Readiness

Pre-Appraisal/Market Analysis	1
Easement or Fee Conditions	1
Non-Federal Cost Share Commitment	1
Signed Purchase Agreement	1
Title Search	1
Mineral Determination	0
Stewardship Plan (or equivalent)*	1
Readiness Total Tally Score	6

Supporting Parties

Congressman Raul M. Grijalva; United States Department of Defense (DOD), Fort Huachuca; United States Fish and Wildlife Service(USFWS)-AZ Partners for Fish and Wildlife; United States Forest Service, Coronado National Forest (CNF); National Park Service, Saguaro National Park; Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGF); Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (AZDEQ); Sky Island Alliance; Bat Conservation International (BCI); The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Arizona Trail Association; Tucson Audubon Society; The Sonoran Institute; City of Nogales; Town of Patagonia; Patagonia Union High School; Cuenca los Ojos; and Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN).

For more information on the Forest Legacy Program, please contact:

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John Richardson

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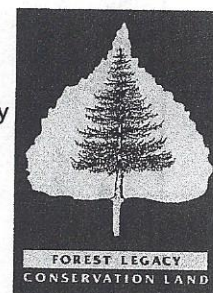
Arizona Department of Forestry
and Fire Management

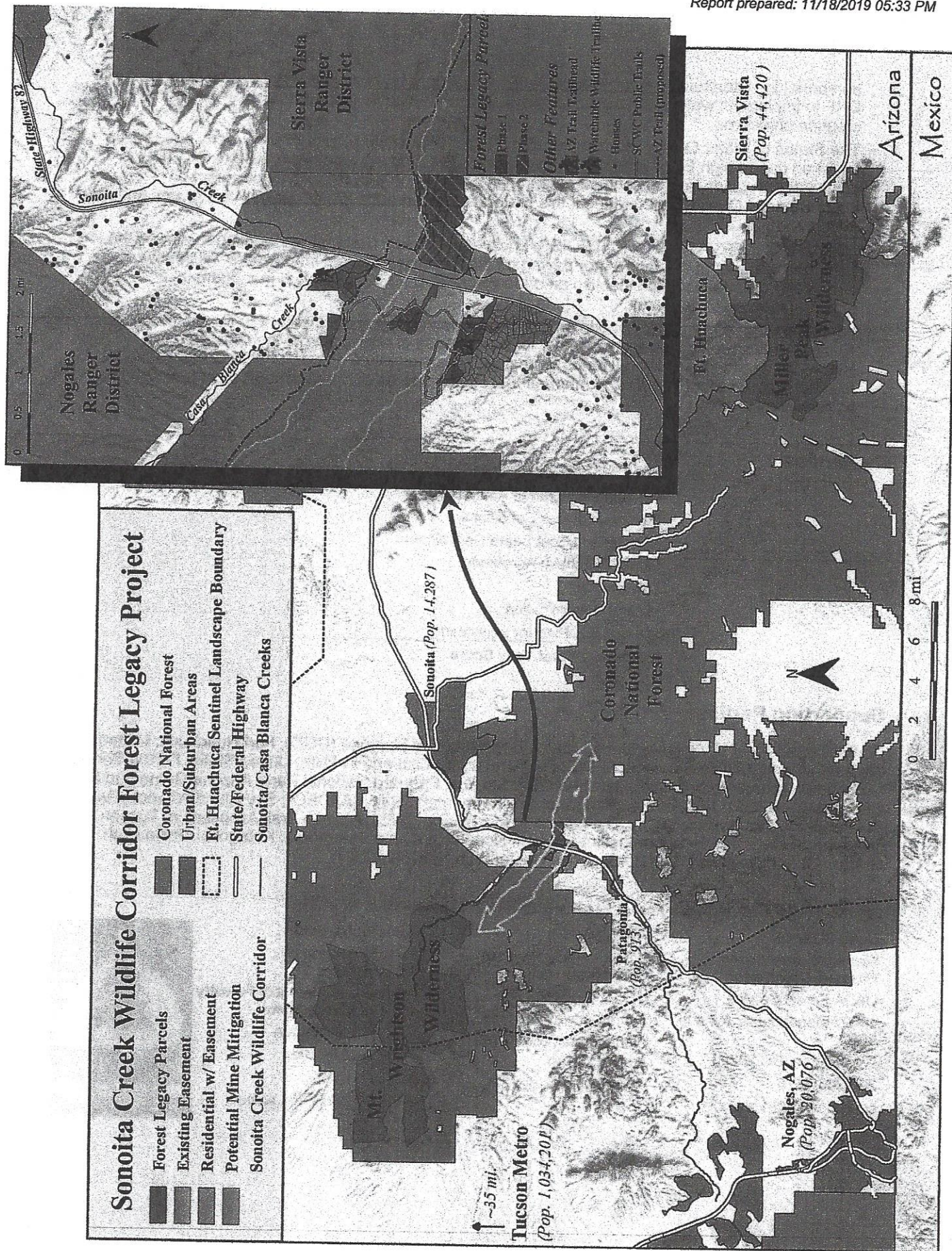
1110 W Washington

Phoenix, AZ 85007

602-771-1420

JRRichardson@dffm.az.gov





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7/20/2020



South32 Continued Exploration and Permitting

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors & Town of Patagonia
July 21 & 22, 2020

Meeting Agenda



- Introductions
- South32 Project Update
- Water and Permitting
 - Exploration
 - Overview of hydrogeology & studies
 - Biodiversity, surface hydrology, treatment plant technology
- Summary and Questions
- Next steps – permitting and planned engagements

Project Update



Exploration



We are restarting development
of the exploration decline



Why do we need an Exploration
Decline and why so deep?



Why do we need to remove
water for exploration?

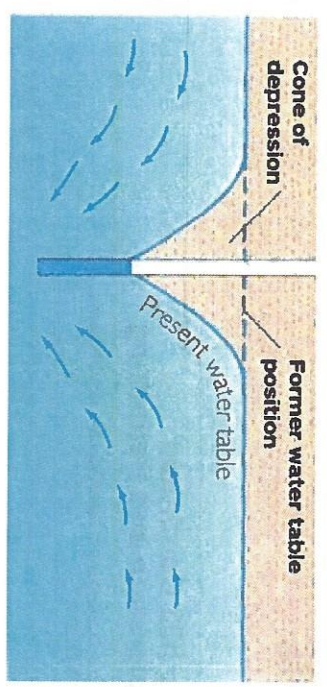
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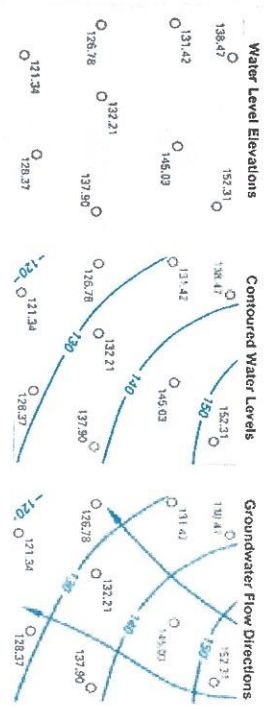
Hermosa hydrogeological investigations



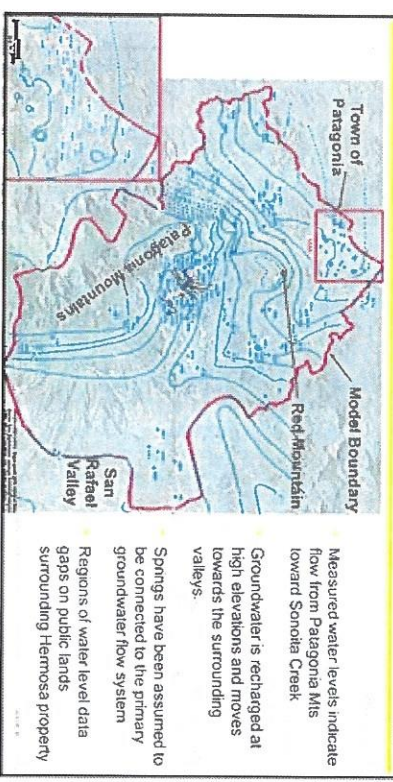
Groundwater pumping

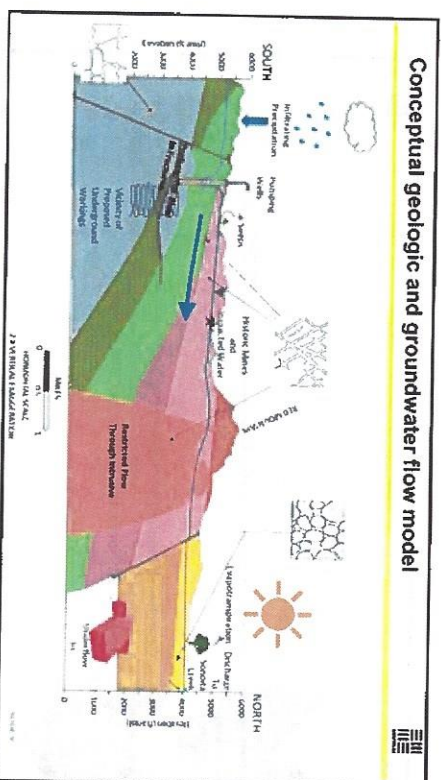


Groundwater flow (macro scale)

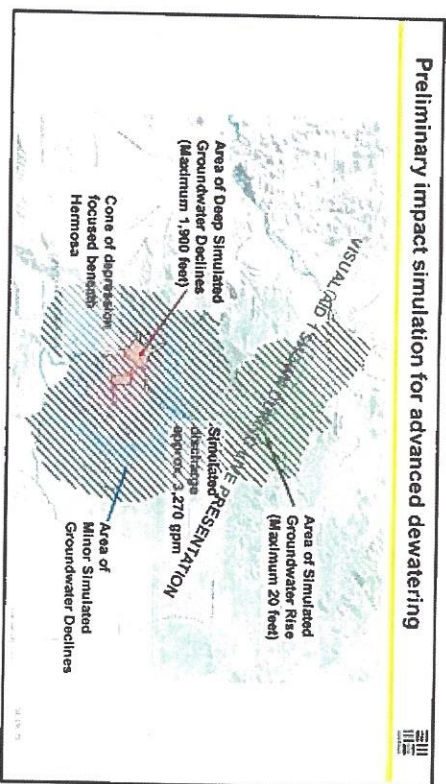


Groundwater measurements and model boundaries

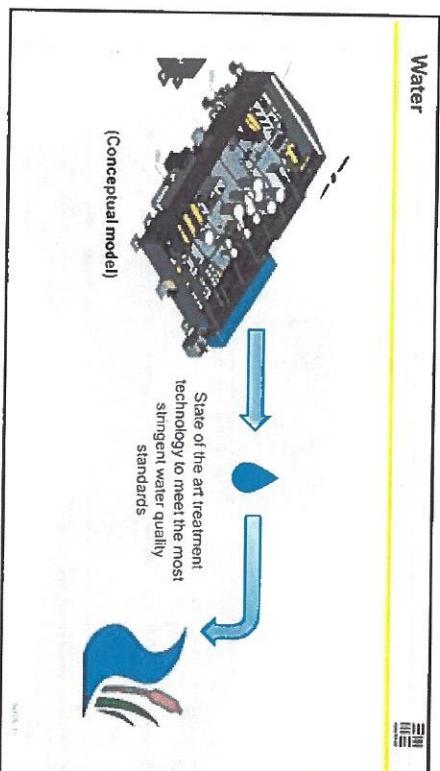




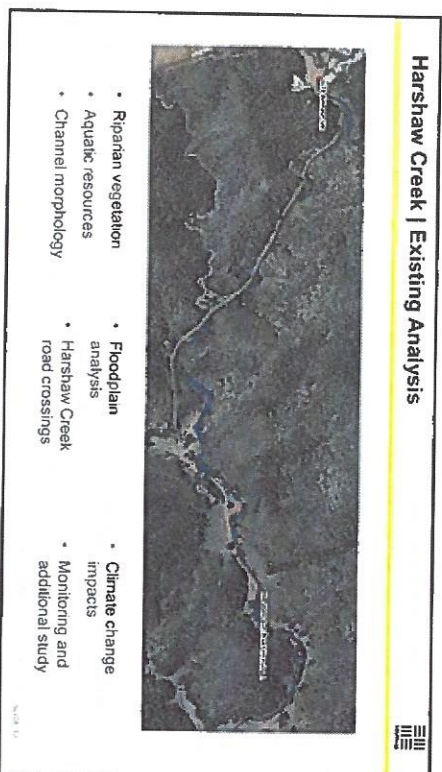
Preliminary impact simulation for advanced dewatering



Water



Harshaw Creek | Existing Analysis



Wildlife flora and fauna surveys



Conclusions

We need to pump water in order to progress exploration at Hermosa and access the ore body, treat the water and then discharge into Harshaw Creek

Ongoing studies indicate limited impacts including:

- Negligible change in the geomorphology (structure of the channel and flood plain) of Harshaw Creek
- Limited impacts to seeps and springs
- Limited biological impacts
- No adverse effects on Town's water supply

We are continuing to analyze potential longer-term effects.

We are implementing a well monitoring program for neighboring well owners
Email hermosacomunity@south32.net

Next steps

- Agency public process
- Aquifer Protection Permit (APP)
- Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) Permit
- Open house planned for September 2020
- Opportunities for technical discussion and questions
- Continued South32 engagement